

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /118 W
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R 121434Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3177

INFO AMEMBASSY MSCOW

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8256

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF RUSSIAN DELEGATION TO LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 7975

1. KIRILENKO DELEGATION HAS COME AND GONE WITH LITTLE
FANFARE AND PROTOCOL, AND APPARENTLY WITH NO RPT NO
IMPROVEMENT IN LEBANESE OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVS.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY (DIB) TOLD EMBOFF
EVENING JUL 11 THAT IN ONLY SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH
GOL OFFICIALS (JUL 10), MEETING WHICH INCLUDED
PRES FRANGIE AND PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN
MINISTER, KIRILENKO HAD CARRIED ON MONOLOGUE WHICH
CONSISTED OF GENERALITIES AND BANALITIES ABOUT SOV
ATTITUDE TOWARD ARABS. THERE WAS NOTHING NEW OR PERTINENT
ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS SYRIAN-LEBANESE RELATIONS;
USSR ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING FEDAYEEN;
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OR PROSPECTS OF MOVEMENT TOWARD ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT.

DIB SAID THAT TOP-RANKING GOL OFFICIALS WERE ASTONISHED THAT KIRILENKO HAD REQUESTED OFFICIAL INVITATION WHEN HE HAD SO LITTLE TO SAY. HE ALSO SAID THAT SOV AMB AZIMOV BECAME VISIBLY MORE AND MORE EMBARRASSED AS KIRILENKO CONTINUED TALK WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.

3. DIB TOLD EMBOFF OF AMUSING INCIDENT WHICH ALSO REPORTED IN PRESS. UPON ARRIVAL AT BEIRUT AIRPORT WHERE HE MET BY LEBANESE FONMIN (PRIMIN NOT RPT NOT PRESENT), KIRILENKO MADE BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE AT VISIT AND SAYING HE HAD COME FOR PURPOSE OF AWARING SOV DECORATION TO HEAD OF LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY NICOLAS SHAWI. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT BEING OFFICIAL INVITEE OF GOL. WHEN KIRILENKO SAW PRES FRANGIE, LATTER SAID POINTEDLY THAT HE HEARD FORMER HAD COME TO LEBANON TO DECORATE SHAWI AND HE WANTED KIRILENKO TO KNOW THAT HE (FRANGIE) AND SHAWI HAD ONCE BEEN CLASSMATES BUT HAD SUBSEQUENTLY CHOSEN TO GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
BUFFUM

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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